

THE REPORT

Of the ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS for Ireland, for the Year
ending the 1st day of August 1855.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK
EARL OF CARLISLE.
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

WE, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, whose hands and corporate seal are hereunto annexed, beg leave, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, to submit to your Excellency the Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners for the year ending the 1st August instant, and to subjoin an account of their receipts and disbursements, distinguishing the specific sources from which all moneys have been derived, and the specific purposes to which the receipts have been applied.

At their usual special meeting in December last, the Commissioners were enabled to appropriate a sum of 36,305 *l.* 12 *s.* to Church works, and this sum has been distributed as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Towards the completion of works of rebuilding and enlargement undertaken in previous years - - - -	1,634	4	11
Towards the rebuilding of Parish Churches - - - -	3,750	-	-
Towards the erection of district Parochial Churches in newly constituted parishes - - - -	3,050	-	-
To enclose Churchyards in which new Churches have been erected - - - -	500	-	-
Towards the enlargement of Churches - - - -	1,604	-	-
For repairing Churches, and maintaining the fences surrounding them - - - -	24,917	7	1
To aid in the internal painting and colouring of Churches, and the erection of stoves and bells - - - -	850	-	-
£.	36,305	12	-

It is, however, to be observed, that, during the progress of works of rebuilding previously approved of, it became necessary to set apart, prior to the meeting of the special Board, a sum of 6,308 *l.* 18 *s.* to provide fully for contracts then subsisting, which sum became a charge, in addition to the above, on the funds of this year.

The assistance derived from private contributions has amounted, as will appear by the annexed account, to 11,175 *l.* 14 *s.* 11 *d.*, and we would especially notice the great liberality evinced in some instances. In particularising the cases referred to, we do not, however, mean to undervalue the assistance afforded in many others, where the sums, although much smaller in amount, appeared to be fully proportioned to the means of the Parishioners. The cases particularly referred to are those of Magherafelt and Annaghmore, in the Diocese of Armagh, and Moyras, in the Diocese of Tuam. In the first, a sum

of 4,000 *l.* has been lately received from the Salters' Company of London, proprietors of extensive property within the Parish, in aid of a grant made by this Board in the year ending August 1854, towards the rebuilding of the Parish Church; and in each of the other two cases a sum of 700 *l.* has been contributed towards the erection of a District Parochial Church. The Church of Moyrus has been completed, the works of Annaghmore Church are in progress, and it is expected that a contract will be immediately closed for those of Magherafelt.

The following cases of new Buildings and enlargements will also be proceeded with in the order in which they are placed, so far as the sums appropriated at the special meeting above referred to, aided by private subscriptions, will admit. These cases have been undertaken as they appeared to deserve immediate attention—the extent of the congregation—the distance from other Churches—the aid proffered by the Parish (and in respect to rebuildings), the state of the old Church receiving due consideration; but it is to be observed, that there are at present 68 cases for future investigation, in which new Churches appear to be necessary:—

NEW BUILDINGS (PARISH CHURCHES).

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Dromoleague | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| 2. Larcose | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Meath. |
| 3. Horetown | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Ferns. |
| 4. Mogeeshu | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cloyne. |
| 5. St. James' | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Dublin. |
| 6. Coal Island | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Armagh. |
| 7. Lissadill | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Elphin. |

NEW BUILDINGS *continued* (DISTRICT PAROCHIAL CHURCHES).

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Fanlobbus | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| 2. Milford | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Raphoe. |
| 3. Kildalkey | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Meath. |
| 4. Carrowallen | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Kilmore. |
| 5. Girty | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Meath. |
| 6. Ballyneehan | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Kilmore. |

ENLARGEMENTS.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Miltown | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Armagh. |
| 2. Magherally | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Dromore. |
| 3. Drumbo | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Down. |
| 4. Drumliffe | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Killaloe. |
| 5. Kilrush | - | - | - | - | |
| 6. Stradbally | - | - | - | - | |
| 7. Crosspatrick | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Ferns. |
| 8. Killybegs | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Raphoe. |
| 9. Templeport | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Kilmore. |
| 10. Marmullane | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| 11. Billis | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Kilmore. |
| 12. Drinagh | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| 13. Kilgariffe | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Ross. |

Of the new Churches previously reported as being in progress, the following have been completed since the last Report:—

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Cong | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Tuam. |
| Kinnelgh | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| Kilmore | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Killaloe. |
| Clonoulty | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cashel. |
| Aglish | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cork. |
| Ballymoe | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Cloyne. |
| Sillerna | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Tuam. |
| Billis | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Kilmore. |
| Bilbo | - | - | - | - | in the Diocese of Leighlin. |

And the following are expected to be completed before the close of the present building season :

Innesbannon	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Cork.
Kildallagh	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Connor.
Killinagh	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Kilmore.
Killersherdenny	-	-	-	-	
Fossey	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Leighlin.
Kilbryan	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Elphin.
Killcorran	-	-	-	-	
Knappagh	-	-	-	-	in the Diocese of Tuam.
Aastleagh	-	-	-	-	

The grant made last year for rebuilding the Parish Church of Agbavea, in the Diocese of Clogher, has been rescinded, the parties interested in the erection of a larger Church on a new site within the Village of Brookboro', who had been called on to contribute towards the new building the difference between the estimated expense of enlarging and permanently repairing the old fabric, having failed to procure an order of the Lord Lieutenant and Council for effecting the change of site. The Churches of Swift's-alley, in the City of Dublin, and St. Thomas, in the Parish of Achill, Diocese of Tuam, which have been built altogether by means of private funds, have been taken under the charge of the Board, and the architect reports the progress of other Churches, the expense of which has been undertaken by private individuals.

The Commissioners, as stated in a former Report, having signified their assent, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the 1 Geo. 2, c. 18, to the endowment of a Chapel of Ease in the Parish of Dunlewey, Diocese of Raphoe, bare lately, with the approval of the Bishop of Derry, accepted from Mrs. Jane Russell, of Dunlewey House, in the County of Donegal, a sum of 800 £., in trust, for the endowment of a Curate, which sum has been invested by them in Government Securities, Mrs. Russell having previously erected, from her own funds, a Church and Glebe-house.

The repairs of Churches continue to engage the anxious attention of the Commissioners. The number of Churches for which grants for repairs have been made this year is 1,076; and we have to observe, that since it has been in the power of the Board to resume the permanent repair of many of the rural Churches, a larger expenditure on those buildings than was contemplated has been found necessary, the bad materials originally used in many instances rendering an almost total renovation indispensable; whilst in some instances permanent repair has been considered impracticable, owing to the external ground being several feet above the level of the floors, caused by the practice heretofore adopted of burying the dead in close contact with the walls. These cases have been consequently added to the lists of Churches requiring to be rebuilt; and we regret to state, that several of the objects contained in these lists must necessarily be postponed for some time, the funds available in each year for such purposes, after providing for other charges of a fixed nature, being insufficient to carry on very many of the buildings reported to be necessary; leaving other trusts created by the Church Temporalities Acts, such as the building of Glebe-houses, the purchase of Glebes, wholly unprovided for, as also the augmentation of small Benefices, except to a very limited extent. The Commissioners, however, supply the usual requisites for the celebration of Divine Service in such licensed places of worship as have from time to time been brought under their notice, of which 16 have been added to their list this year.

By the half-yearly returns of promotions, it appears that 74 Benefices have become vacant within the year, consisting of 16 Dignities and Prebends, and 58 Parochial Benefices; of these, 21 appear to be subject to the Ecclesiastical tax imposed by the Church Temporalities Acts.

In respect to the Dignities and Prebends, the Commissioners caused the vacancies to be duly notified to the Lord Lieutenant and the Privy Council, recommending the appointments to be suspended in the cases of the Prebends of Wicklow, in the Diocese of Dublin; Ardagh, in the Diocese of Killalla; Kilteshill, in the Diocese of Clonfert; and Kilrosanty, in the Diocese of Lismore;

also in the cases of the Treasurership of Kilmacduagh, in the Diocese of Kilmacduagh; and of the second Canonry, in the Diocese of Kildare. A like recommendation was also made in respect to the sinecure Rectories of Ballynoe and Ahern, in the Diocese of Cloyne. The appointments to these Dignities and Rectories were accordingly suspended, with the exception of the appointment to the Prebend of Wicklow; in that case the Commissioners received from the Archbishop of Dublin, for the consideration of your Excellency and the Privy Council, a plan for the division of the Prebend and Union of Wicklow, containing a new arrangement in respect to the corps of the Prebend, and suggesting the erection of two separate and distinct Parishes, under the titles of the Vicarages of Killesly and Glenealy; and this plan having been adopted by your Excellency and the Council, an appointment has been since made to the Prebend to which cure of souls is now attached. With respect to the second Canonry of Kildare, the Board subsequently received a communication from the Committee of the Privy Council, to whom the matter was referred, transmitting a memorial from the Chancellor and the third and fourth Canons of the Cathedral, praying that the recommendation of the Commissioners in relation to the second Canonry should not be acted on, and that the previous orders of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, vesting in the Commissioners the revenues of the Chancellorship and of the third and fourth Canonries, might be rescinded. In answer to this memorial, the Commissioners, in compliance with the request of the Committee of the Privy Council, submitted such observations as they considered necessary, and also stated the grounds on which they came to the conclusion that there was not actual cure of souls attached to these offices; and having been heard by their counsel in support of their recommendations, they have been since informed by the Clerk of the Council, that your Excellency and the Council, without expressing any opinion on the questions raised by the memorialists, had declined to interfere in the matter, leaving the parties to assert such rights (if any) as they may be advised they possess, before a proper legal tribunal.

In the cases of the Treasurership of Kilmacduagh and the Prebend of Kilrossanty, the emoluments, consisting of rectorial rentcharges, vested in the Commissioners, under the orders of suspension already referred to, have been since withdrawn and transferred by your Excellency and the Privy Council to the respective Vicarages of Kilmacduagh and Kilrossanty.

Appointments to the Benefices of Bordwell, in the Diocese of Ossory, and of Kilmolash, in the Diocese of Lismore, have been suspended by the Commissioners, being Benefices in which Divine Service had not been celebrated within the three years ending 1st February 1833. In the former case, upon the suggestion of the Diocesan, the revenues have been directed to be impounded for the purpose of rebuilding the Parish Church, subject to the payment of a moderate stipend for the discharge of the occasional duties of the Parish, which have been committed, on the recommendation of the Bishop, to the Curate of the adjoining Benefice; and a communication has been made to the Bishop of Cashel, as to the party to whom the discharge of the occasional duties of the Parish of Kilmolash should be committed.

Referring to the proceedings of the Commissioners in respect of the Precentorship of Kilfenora, in the Diocese of Kilfenora, the Prebend of Laoch, in the Diocese of Tuam, and the Rectory of Killeslin, in the Diocese of Leighlin, which have been referred to in previous Reports, we have now to report, that an order of the Lords Justices and Privy Council suspending the appointment to the Precentorship has been received; also an order suspending the appointment to the Prebend; but the Commissioners cannot, in the latter case, assert their right to the income, the Bishop of Tuam having collated a Clerk, prior to the order of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, said order not having been made within the time prescribed by the Act; and with respect to the Rectory of Killeslin, the peculiar circumstances of which were brought under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant in the Annual Report for the year ending the 1st of August 1853, the Commissioners have received an order of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, removing the suspension, and giving authority for appointment to the Rectory.

The Commissioners have been enabled, under the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101, to allocate, for augmentation purposes, from the Tithes disappropriated from Dignities and vested in them, by orders of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, a further annual sum of 359 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*, which has been distributed amongst 27 small Benefices.

Pursuant to the Act 17 Victoria, c. 11, the Commissioners have paid a sum of 8,980 *l.* 9 *s.* 3 *d.*, after deducting income tax, to the Incumbents who were heretofore entitled to receive Ministers' Mooney, charged on houses in the several Parishes within the city of Dublin, and other corporate towns in Ireland, under the Act of the 17 & 18 Chas. 2, c. 7, being for three quarters of a year to the 1st ultimo; but they (the Commissioners) will not be entitled to receive any portion of the reduced sum now chargeable under the provisions of the first-mentioned Act, until after the 29th of September next, it not being required by the Act that the sums of money to be collected in the manner therein provided for shall, until that date, be paid over to the Paymaster of Civil Services, who is to hand over same to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The temporary abatements of rents which were granted to certain tenants during the late years of agricultural distress, as mentioned in former Reports, have been, in most instances, withdrawn or modified, the Commissioners considering that the improved state of the country justified the adoption of such a course.

There have been received this year, for the purchase of Perpetuities, 23 applications; the sum realised from purchases within the year has amounted to 247 *l.* 14 *s.* 3 *d.*; and from the liquidation of mortgages granted for purchases effected in former years to 3,191 *l.* 19 *s.* 11 *d.*, a sum of 3,363 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.* has been invested in the purchase of Government securities to the credit of the Perpetuity Purchase Fund, and a sum of 13,944 *l.* 5 *s.* has also been invested in the like securities, for account of the General Fund, subject to existing contracts for Church Works and other engagements.

A sum of 1,000 *l.* of the Trust Fund, arising under Bishop Gore's Will, from the Improper Tithes of Cahir Parish, in the Diocese of Lismore, has been also invested in Government securities, and the usual annual Account of this fund has been furnished to the Bishop of Cashel and Waterford, pursuant to the directions of the Court of Chancery. In addition to the Account of Receipts and Disbursements already referred to, a like Account in respect to Primate Boulter's and Primate Robinson's funds is herewith annexed.

All which is submitted to your Excellency's consideration.



(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
R^e DUBLIN.
JOSEPH H. MEATH.
PLUNKET TUAM, &c.
J. T. OSSORY and FERNS.
HEN. MEREDYTH.
W^e C. QUIN.

(signed) *Thos. Burke*, Secretary.

Board Room, 24, Upper Merrion-street,
August 1855.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Thos. Burke*, Secretary.

BY THE ECCLESIASTICAL

AN ACCOUNT of all their RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for One Year, ending the 1st
 been derived, and showing the Total Amount derived from each Source,

R E C E I P T S :		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, 1 August 1854, General Fund	- - - - -	-	-	-	10,320	12	0
See Estates :							
Received from—							
Waterford and Lismore	- - - - -	4,870	7	0			
Killisno and Achoury	- - - - -	3,032	11	7			
Clenfort and Kilmacduagh	- - - - -	3,532	2	4			
Raphoe	- - - - -	5,212	14	7			
Osney	- - - - -	3,855	7	1			
Cork and Ross	- - - - -	4,550	18	2			
Ardagh	- - - - -	5,048	4	4			
Elphin	- - - - -	6,220	0	0			
Dromore	- - - - -	4,512	2	4			
Kildare and Downey of Christ Church	- - - - -	5,945	0	1			
Clogher	- - - - -	6,501	7	0			
					50,720	5	3
Suspended benefices and dignities, and disappropriated tithes, &c.	- - - - -	-	-	-	17,410	18	1
Charges on the See of Derry	- - - - -	-	-	-	11,245	0	-
Tax on Bishops and benefices	- - - - -	-	-	-	12,548	12	10
Globe-house loan instalments	- - - - -	-	-	-	4,207	11	1
Sale of perpetuities	- - - - -	-	-	-	3,430	14	2
Interest on Government securities standing to credit of General Fund	- - - - -	2,095	4	2			
Ditto - - - - - standing to credit of Perpetuity Purchase Fund	- - - - -	1,380	14	11			
					3,475	10	1
Interest on perpetuity mortgages	- - - - -	-	-	-	1,554	15	1
Sale of 3 per cent. stock	- - - - -	-	-	-	9,325	4	4
Interest on moneys invested in Government securities for repairs of Trevelin Chapel of Euse	- - - - -	-	-	-	10	12	4
Private subscriptions for rebuilding and enlarging, and for the alteration of Churches	- - - - -	-	-	-	11,175	14	11
Moneys granted for Church purposes, returned unsupplied	- - - - -	-	-	-	91	8	10
Request for keeping Denamoun Church in repair	- - - - -	-	-	-	14	2	10
Sale of perpetually printed forms	- - - - -	-	-	-	5	7	6
Income tax recouped by Special Commissioners on expenditure for Church purposes, &c.	- - - - -	-	-	-	1,438	18	1
Like tax, deducted on payments of stipends, &c., to clergy and others	- - - - -	-	-	-	191	16	5
					£.	141,815	10 7
Dr. PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS.							
To Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund, 31 July 1854	- - - - -	-	-	-	3,554	5	4
- Received on account of Primate Boulter's Fund	- - - - -	-	-	-	4,573	15	5
- Ditto on account of Primate Robinson's Fund	- - - - -	-	-	-	50	2	7
					£.	7,854	3 4

COMMISSIONERS FOR IRELAND:

day of August 1855; distinguishing the specific Sources from which all Moneys have and the specific Purposes to which the Receipts have been applied.

DISBURSEMENTS:		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
By Rebuilding Churches - - - - -		12,693	7	9			
- Enlarging ditto - - - - -		5,119	7	11			
- Repairs of ditto - - - - -		31,322	10	11			
- Extraordinary Repairs of ditto - - - - -		248	15	11	40,382	2	6
- Requisites for celebration of Divine Service in the several Churches and Chapels - - - - -		-	-	-	34,689	11	9
- Payments to the Representatives of late Bishop of Kilmore, under 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37 - - - - -		34	15	8			
- Interest on ditto, on charge on Kilmore Soc House, under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 37 - - - - -		647	18	2			
- Stipends to Dublin curates, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37 - - - - -		1,702	9	1			
- Same to vicars-choral and curates of suspended benefices, &c. - - - - -		3,216	14	-			
- Augmentation to incumbents of small benefices, under 3 & 4 Vict. c. 161 - - - - -		1,833	8	9			
- Stipends to diocesan schoolmasters - - - - -		169	5	10	5,334	15	8
- Ministers' Money, Payments in lieu of, to the incumbents of such benefices as formerly derived income from that source, under Act 17 Vict. c. 11 - - - - -		-	-	-	3,600	0	3
- Income tax paid on money accounts - - - - -		-	-	-	1,314	4	1
- Salaries to Commissioners, Secretary, Treasurer, and Clerks, &c. - - - - -		-	-	-	6,719	1	4
- Rent, costs, candles, and other incidents - - - - -		895	2	5			
- Receipt stamps - - - - -		15	1	-			
- Postage - - - - -		188	10	9			
- Fees for attesting and registering perpetuity certificates - - - - -		104	16	9			
- Expenses incurred in valuation of lands - - - - -		93	7	0			
- Rents, taxes, and other expenses connected with mesuagial and other lands undertaken - - - - -		996	11	6			
- Quit and Crown rents - - - - -		65	19	3			
- Advertising proposals for Church works, &c. - - - - -		115	14	6			
- Stationery and printing for one year - - - - -		207	5	7	9,861	16	3
- Solicitor's personal services for two years - - - - -		2,000	-	-			
- Ditto disbursements and expenses, ditto - - - - -		706	7	-			
- Ditto law clerks' salaries for one year - - - - -		290	-	-	2,996	7	-
- Purchase of Government stock from the Perpetuity Purchase Fund - - - - -		5,303	1	9			
- Ditto - - - ditto - - - from the General Fund - - - - -		13,844	5	-	17,387	8	9
- Tax on benefices overpaid and returned - - - - -		-	-	-	4	6	8
- Rent and rentcharge returned to incumbents and others - - - - -		-	-	-	30	5	-
- Balance in Bank, General Fund, 31 July 1855 - - - - -		-	-	-	10,585	17	6
		£.			141,515	19	7

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS.

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.	
By stipends in augmentation of small benefices, Primate Boulter's Fund - - - - -	5,952	17	4	
- Purchase of 28 <i>l</i> . 11 <i>s</i> . 7 <i>d</i> . Consols, Primate Robinson's Fund - - - - -	26	2	7	
- Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund, 31 July 1855 - - - - -	3,695	3	6	
	£.	7,674	3	4

(E. E.)

(signed) James E. Stifford, Esq., Treasurer.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION
(IRELAND).

REPORT of the ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS
for *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant, for the Year
ending the 1st day of August 1855.

(Presented pursuant to Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, s. 10.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
20 February 1856.*

50.

Under 1 oz.